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**Testimony of Ann Pratt, CT Citizen Action Group and Co-Chair of the Medicaid Strategy Group  
Insurance and Real Estate Committee Public Hearing  
Tuesday, March 2 2020**

**Regarding HB 5366- An Act Concerning the Cost of Prescription Drugs  
HB 5361- An Act Concerning Limiting Changes in Prescription Drug Formularies**

To Senator Lesser, Representative Scanlon, Senator Kelly and Representative Pavalock-D'Amato and distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

My name is Ann Pratt, Director Organizing at the CT Citizen Action Group a statewide organization committed to creating a more just and equitable society- and putting people first by making sure that all CT residents have high quality, affordable health insurance.

I am here today in support of HB 5366- An Act Concerning the Cost of Prescription Drugs; HB 5361- An Act Concerning Limiting Changes in Prescription Drug Formularies.

In September of 2010, my husband and soul mate of 35 years was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He was given 1-2 months to live. Ken and I met many years ago. We shared a passion and belief in creating a more just and equitable society through community organizing- and an understanding that to do this we had to fight like hell to bring about such a world. Ken was a great organizer, and a gifted, passion fighter. He applied that same tenacity and strength to fight his cancer. We had a year together before he died of the disease one year later past his diagnosis.

Ken was one of the “fortunate” one’s in his fight against cancer- in that he had quality, affordable insurance that covered the cost of his health care – fully and consistently. The array of cancer drugs Ken received – along with the pain medications he used to provide him essential comfort in his last year of life-these drugs were extraordinarily expensive- and they were fully covered. This gave us the incredibly important opportunity to focus on his treatment, his quality of life -and on saying goodbye to one another. Every single individual in this country should have that same dignity- and opportunity. The pain and emotional turmoil our American health care system can bring upon individuals and families experiencing health issues is immoral. The role that rising prescription drug costs play in this broken system needs to be addressed with urgency and vigilance. The ultimate solution is to treat health care as a human right.

While we wait for this ultimate solution of embracing health care system that understands it as a human right, I testify today in support of HB 5366- An Act Concerning the Cost of Prescription Drugs and HB 5361- An Act Concerning Limiting Changes in Prescription Drug Formularies. These bills take important steps to lower prescription drug costs, create stability and piece of mind for individuals and families in their fight against serious diseases and chronic conditions. I urge you to pass these important bills that will improve the quality of life for CT health care consumers.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of **HB 5366, HB 5361.**

Ann Pratt, CT Citizen Action Group

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